

Dear FCC

I wish to state my support for Petition RM-10352 regarding mode segregation on the 160m Amateur Band. I write as a long time user of 160m (since 1962 from England, and since 1992 from Canada). I am a holder of 160m DXCC and 160m WAZ, and am a member of both ARRL and RAC.

The ARRL and IARU band plans are excellent in themselves, and the great majority of amateurs across the world abide by them. Some however do not, either through ignorance or through malice. The former are easily educated by some kind words.

In my experience it is impossible to move the latter. Since my arrival in Canada I have experienced consistent, severe and deliberate interference from a group of stations located in the Southern US who only moved their frequency of operation after a warning by the FCC. Whilst I lived in England there was deliberate SSB interference on CW frequencies by a group of chess playing German amateurs who were exercising their 'rights' to operate wherever their licence permitted, and I understand that this is still continuing.

The nature of propagation on medium frequencies is such that overseas stations are often extremely weak and local stations extremely strong. A strong SSB station makes at least 3kHz unusable for weak signal CW work.

I greatly appreciated the recent FCC action over deliberate interference, but would point out that the interference had been consistent and almost daily for many years previously. The difficulty with a voluntary band plan is that is necessary to prove deliberate interference before any action can be taken. This can be very difficult. A regulatory band plan will have much higher compliance and does not require the same burden of proof. The proposal would allow 157kHz of the band for SSB operation which I believe is ample under all circumstances.

You will be well aware that Canada does not have regulatory band planning on any amateur frequency, and that my support of regulation in the US may therefore appear rather cheeky! It seems to me that the hugely greater amount of amateur activity from US means that regulation is more necessary, and that there needs to only be an extremely small percentage of improper operation to cause problems to other domestic and foreign amateur stations.

Yours faithfully

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